

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
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O 181623Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9024

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5573

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET, SU

SUBJECT: TENNECO FIVE

REF: ADDIS 5570; KHARTOUM 1075

1. APPRECIATE PROBLEMS RAISED KHARTOUM'S REFTEL.

2. CONCUR IT PREFERABLE AMBASSADOR BREWER MAKE APPROACH
EVEN IF THIS DONE MAY 20.

3. OUR RECOMMENDATION INTENDED EXHAUST ALL POSSIBILITIES
FOR TENNECO RESOLVE PROBLEM WITH CAPTORS BILATERALLY. WE
CONSIDERING KASSALA APPROACH BECAUSE ATTEMPTS DEAL WITH
ELF CAPTORS LOCALLY HAVE PROVED UNPRODUCTIVE LAST TWO
MONTHS, PROBABLY DUE COMBINATION UNRELIABILITY OF INTERMEDI-
ARIES AND WEAKNESS LEADERSHIP OF ELF CAPTOR BAND. IEG, WE
THINK, WOULD PREFER AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS,
VIZ., HAVING TO TAKE POSITIONS/MAKE CONCESSIONS, IF THIS
FEASIBLE. ELF/GC COMMAND POST KASSALA MAY PROVE MOST
EFFECTIVE CHANNEL TO CAPTORS.

4. ADHERENTS ELF/CG MOSTLY BENI AMIR. THIS TRIBE STRADDLES
BORDER. SUDANESE PREFER AVOID TAKING ACTION AGAINST BENI
AMIR-ELF IN LIGHT THIS REALITY AND SEE NO NEED DO SO WHILE
ELF REPS KEEP LOW PROFILE AS AT PRESENT AND SUDANESE DO
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NOT ACTIVELY SUPPORT ELF OPERATIONS ACROSS BORDER AGAINST

ETHIOPIAN FORCES. ETHIOPIANS FULLY AWARE THIS SITUATION
AND HAVE NOT PRESSED GOS GO FURTHER THAN IT HAS. SITUATION
IN KASSALA THUS ONE OF LIVE AND LET LIVE.

5. WE HAVE EVERY REASON THINK SUDANESE SECURITY PEOPLE KNOW
ELF REPS KASSALA. WE ARE THINKING OF VERY LOW KEY APPROACH
WITH MINIMAL GOS OPERATIONAL INVOLVEMENT INTENDED ONLY OPEN
ELF DOOR TO TENNECO.

6. IF SUDANESE PREFER, PRINCIPALS COULD JUST AS WELL BE
BROUGHT TOGETHER IN KHARTOUM.

7. WE SEE NO RPT NO NEED INFORM IEG AT PRESENT OF KASSALA
APPROACH. IF APPROACH PROVES STERILE THAT WOULD BE THAT;
IF SUCCESSFUL, LOCUS AND IDENTITY OF INTERMEDIARIES STILL
NEED NOT BE REVEALED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, HOSTAGES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS05573
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740124-0256
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740536/aaaabfvc.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: ADDIS 5570; KHARTOUM 1075
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENNECO FIVE
TAGS: PINS, ET, SU, US, ELF, TENNECO FIVE, (BREWER)
To: KHARTOUM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005